INTRODUCTION: Before you begin construction of a fence, it is very important that you become familiar with the City of Ankeny building and zoning regulations which apply. The regulations exist for your protection and the Community Planning & Building Department is operated for your benefit. Please allow 5 working days for processing of a permit application. Following review of the application and payment of fees, a permit will be issued and work may begin.

FENCES, WALLS, AND PLANTINGS.

- Permit Required. No person shall erect, alter or relocate any fence, wall or other vision barrier without first obtaining a building permit along with a fee of $20.00
- Front and side yards adjacent to a street shall be considered front yards and shall not exceed 48 inches in height if chain link and 42 inches in height for all other fence materials. On **corner lots**, fences that exceed 48-inches in height if open chain link and 42-inches in height for all other fence materials shall conform to principal building setback requirements.   In **side and rear yards**, opaque and/or solid fences or walls shall not exceed 6 feet in height, but fences may extend to 8 feet in height, unless noted otherwise, if the portion of fence higher than 6 feet is constructed with 70% of the surface area open.
- Fences in the designated rear yard of a **through lot** shall be located no closer to the street right-of-way than the far edge from the street right-of-way of the landscape or open space buffer or easement. No setback is required from the street-right-of-way for fences 6 feet and under in height in the designated rear yard of through lots when there is no landscape or open space buffer or easement. Residential fences taller than 6 feet in the designated rear yard of a through lot with no landscape or open space buffer or easement shall have a minimum setback of 5 feet from the property line.
- All fences shall adhere to the requirements for visibility at intersections.
- No hedge, landscape planting or other vegetation shall be permitted which impedes vision greater than fifty percent of an imaginary plane, perpendicular to the street, extending the full depth of the front yard and vertically from a height of 42 inches to 10 feet.
- Fences placed in a drainage easement must not inhibit the flow of water.

VISIBILITY AT INTERSECTIONS. No fence, wall, shrubbery, earthen berm, sign, billboard, or other obstruction to vision shall be permitted which serves to obstruct vision between a height of 30 inches and 10 feet on any corner lot within a triangle of 30 feet formed by intersecting street right-of-way lines, or in the case of interior lots within a triangle of 20 feet formed by intersecting driveway edge and right-of-way lines.

RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS. There may be restrictive covenants recorded against your property which regulate structures. A copy of any restrictive covenants should have been given to you during your closing. If not, check your title report for a reference to them. Covenants are recorded against the land; once you have the document number from your title report, you can obtain a recorded copy from the Polk County Recorder.

PLAT NOTES. Some recorded plats may have notes that place further fence restrictions on lots adjacent to streets. Copies of plats are available to view on the Polk County Recorders web site and at the Public Services Building.

IOWA ONE CALL 1-800-292-8989 or 811 provides contractors, homeowners, and others who may be excavating, digging or trenching with a single toll-free number to call for locating and marking underground facilities. Iowa law states that if you are excavating, including digging, you must call Iowa One Call at least 48 hours in advance (of your digging) in order to minimize the risk of damaging any type of underground facilities (electric, gas, telecommunications, cable television, water and sewer). The service is free, and so is the phone call. Call 1-800-292-8989 or 811 for FREE utility location service.

Community Planning & Building Department ■ 220 W. First St. ■ Ankeny, IA 50023 ■ 515-963-3550
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Method for Computing Fence Heights

Rear Yard	Rear Yard		Front Yard		Side Yard	Rear Yard		Rear Yard

Rear Yard

Front Yard

30'

Front Yard

Front Yard

Street

30' Visibility Triangle
See Diagram Below

20' Visibility Triangle
See Diagram Below

Street

▓ (dark gray)	30" Maximum Fence Height
▒ (dotted)	42" Maximum Solid Fence Height – 48" Chain Link
☐ (white)	96" Maximum Fence Height – Top 24" @ 70% Open

Visibility Diagram Plan

Height measured at lowest curb elevation of a line perpendicular to curb line

Property Line

Right of Way Line

10'– 0"
Minimum

Clear Vision Area

30'
Max

Height measured above curb elevation

Street

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